(c) the number of tribals and forest dwellers who are benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) to (c) As per the information available with the Ministry, States have progressed in varying degrees in implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. While States like Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan have established the prescribed structures and procedures, have received a large number of claims and some have even started distributing title deeds, other States, because of various reasons, including holding of State and Panchayat elections, are still to catch up. As on 30.9.2008, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh have distributed 5000 (approx), 59548 and 4186 pattas respectively.

**Inter-State visits by tribals**

292. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme regarding exchange of inter-State visits by tribals; and

(b) if so, whether there is any such scheme for the tribal people of Meghalaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. All the States including the State of Meghalaya are eligible to apply as per provision of the Scheme.

**Scheme for upliftment of tribal people**

293. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the effect of various schemes for the upliftment of tribal people, whether it is negligible, marginal or substantial;

(b) what are the various measures underway to do something substantial for the growth and development; and

(c) whether there would be a time-frame for such measures, to get the desired growth and development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) The main objective of the schemes/programmes implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as well as other Ministries of Government of India is to bring the tribal people into the mainstream economy through their economic, educational, health and social development, while simultaneously retaining their culture and traditions to suit their own genius. As a result of these schemes, there has been all-round socio-economic development of tribal people and they are getting benefits by way of increase in income and employment, infrastructure development, educational development and improvement of their health.

(b) In addition to the Schemes/Programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, this Ministry is also implementing the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, which seeks to recognize and vest certain rights over forest land in forest dwelling STs and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generation but where rights could not be recorded to ensure (a) tenurial security, providing them relief against the physical and psychological alienation from land belonging to them; (b) livelihood, in terms of agriculture and ownership of minor forest produce, including right to collect, use and dispose the same; and (c) traditional and customary rights. The Act has been operationalised with effect from 31.12.2007 and the States are in varying degrees of its implementation.

(c) Implementation of the schemes/programmes of this Ministry for the upliftment of tribal people is an on-going process and no time-frame for the same can be prescribed.

**Upliftment schemes for tribals**

294. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total population of tribal people in the country and the number out of them who are literate and their average annual income, as in March, 2008; and

(b) the scheme exclusively available for the upliftment of these people in terms of economy, education, welfare etc. and the allocation of funds under each scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) As per population census, 2001 conducted by the Office of Registrar General, India, total Population of Scheduled Tribes in the country as on 1st March, 2001, stood at 84.33 million. Out of them, the number of literates were reported to be 32.39 million. As far as annual average income is concerned, such data is not maintained.

(b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes/programmes for the socio-economic development of the tribal people in the country. The details of the schemes/programmes alongwith funds allotted under each of them during the year 2008-09 are given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*Major Schemes/Programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the Welfare and Development of Scheduled Tribes and funds Allocated During* 2008-09.

(Rs. In Crores)

| Sl.No. | Name of the Scheme | Amount |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| **Central Sector Schemes** | | |
| 1. | Development of Primitive Trial Groups | 173.00 |
| 2. | Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes | 36.60 |